

The Washington Times

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FRANK A. MUNSEY

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MONDAY, MARCH 20, 1905.

Consult the Parents!

Manifestly the responsibility to decide the present controversy over the introduction of moral training upon a distinctly religious foundation into the curriculum of the public schools rests finally with the authorities in control of the schools. Those authorities are the Board of Education and the District Commissioners, especially that member of the Board of Commissioners who supervises the schools directly. Nothing which the community can do, in the ordinary expression of its opinion, can lessen that responsibility. The Times thinks there will be little inclination to dispute this.

Yet the authorities will do wisely, in the opinion of The Times, to obtain the fullest possible expression of opinion from the parents of the pupils before they act. To that end this paper suggests a practical and entirely feasible plan of procedure. Let the board prepare a circular letter of inquiry and through the teacher of each grade send a copy of that circular to every household represented in the schools. Unless the community is at heart less concerned in this matter than it seems, the responses will be numerous and prompt. And if they are fairly representative in number those responses will afford the Board of Education and Commissioner Macfarland a better practical index to the attitude of the citizens most interested in the public schools than all the theorizing in which authorities can indulge.

This is, of course, merely a suggestion. If adopted it will neither compel the Board of Education and the Commissioners to any specified action nor relieve them of their responsibility to meet this question according to their best judgment for the good of the community. But The Times is confident such a referendum would be of great practical value, that it would contribute greatly to satisfy the parents with the decision finally reached by the board, and that it would almost certainly preclude what now seems to be an inevitable remonstrance against any decision of the board.

Not Even Honor Left.

Prominent Russians are now urging the Czar to negotiate for peace. Can it be that the power of the bureaucracy is breaking and the real conservative men of Russia—and no doubt there are many of them in Russia, though they are rarely mentioned—are to become the advisers of the Czar? Let us hope so. It is high time that these men be heard from, for in them, Conservatives, Extremists, Socialists, or Agrarians, rests the hope of Russia, whatever may be the result of its internal disorders.

Russia has nothing to gain from further war in the Far East—not even honor. Even if she should send another army to the front and victory should finally perch on her banners, it would seem, in view of the awful loss of life, terrific sacrifice, and financial upheaval that must result, much like defeat. It would be victory with dishonor.

The world would respect Russia more if the war were ended immediately, even with a certain amount of humiliation. The world knows that when the Russians become a really united people, backed by a love of country and a cause, with wise and forceful men at their head, they will be a tremendous power among the nations—but not till then. The beginning of that end is peace in Manchuria.

Libel in Photograph.

Out in Denver a citizen is under arrest for having published the portrait of a prominent insurance man between those of Jesse James and "Soapy" Smith. There was in the very act of publication the insinuation that the trio belonged in the same class. The point at issue is worth a definite decision. It would seem as though a respectable citizen ought to be able to protest effectively against being placed in an unofficial rogues' gallery.

Perhaps it is unnecessary to state much as to the identity of Jesse James. He was a desperado famed for courage, and for success in holding up trains, banks, county fairs, or any other institution that kept a supply of cash. He was the hero of the road, and later the hero of the nickel novel. Jesse was killed by a pair of sneaking bandits considerably worse than himself.

"Soapy" Smith was as smooth a confidence man as the West ever produced. He got his name, not from being so sleek, but from his penchant

for selling soap on the street corners, making the customers believe they were purchasing \$20 bills along with the little cubes made from a bar of the laundry article. "Soapy" went to Alaska, organized a band of robbers, and was a terror to all the region until a citizen filled him full of lead.

Both James and Smith had their good qualities, and yet they did not constitute the sort of company in which a man of ordinary scruples would care to mix.

Of course, the mere association of pasteboards would not cause the original of one photograph to partake of the character of the originals of the others, and yet would be far from pleasing. It might lead to unjust inferences. The ordinary sense of fair play rises to support the gentleman who is kicking.

An Impudent Professor.

The Chicago professor has been heard from again. This time his name is Tufts. He has submitted to his students a series of questions designed to throw a great white light upon his psychological researches. Here are a few samples:

"Would you allow a person to have an ungrounded favorable opinion of you?"

"If the conductor neglected to take your fare would you keep the money?"

"Which is more honorable, to cheat secretly or openly?"

After each question, is the query "Why?" The student who has a fair grasp on self-respect will either decline to notice these interrogatories or he will return them with a notation embracing the sentiment that the professor is impudently failing to mind his own business.

The instructor has a right to study his pupils, but when he requires them to assist in the dissection of their own souls he is getting far from his beat. He is paid to assist in the cultivation of their minds, and he naturally charges himself with some responsibility for their morals, but the role of confessor is no legitimate part of his duty.

Moreover, he would learn nothing by any replies purporting to be given in good faith, for the most complacent of the young men would decline to lay bare impulses that stir him in the direction of a possible evil.

Points in Paragraphs.

The anti-saloon leaguers have asked the candidates for the Virginia governorship how they stand on the rum question. It will be a dark day when the Old Dominion, huh, gives the mint julep the go-by, huh.

The bear pressure hit the stock market Saturday. The bear in the Far East hasn't hit anything yet.

Three new judges for Indiana are named Kohlsaat, Bethea, and Landis—this ought to make the ordinary legal phraseology feel very sick.

The dispatches say a woman caused the latest row over the Dominican treaty in the Senate. Adam had no dispatches, but he found out the same thing—and it wasn't about a treaty, either.

The Mormons have organized a life insurance company—and they do say a Seat-in-the-Senate Insurance Company has an office out there somewhere.

"By one's handshake shall we know him," says a phraseologist, the credit men of Chicago. Ordinarily, people are satisfied with a touch.

Mechanics engaged in building a cable station on a rock in the mid-Pacific complain that they had to pay the cable company for the news of the last election. There is to be a permanent settlement of thirty-two men. If they are all Americans they will have a daily paper.

The local Sunday schools are going right on with their baseball schedule, notwithstanding the proposition to provide religious instruction in the public schools.

About this time of the year look out for an upset household.

The new spring hat the women are to wear looks like a market basket struck by a street car.

No, Gentle Reader, the Lenten austerities have nothing to do with the severities of creditors.

If all the men who act as though they needed vacations these days were to leave their work, Washington would look like Goldsmith's deserted village.

Colorado politicians who have the distinction not to be in jail are said to go armed, showing that they ought to be there, too.

The Panaman canal commissioner who reads the signs of the times ought to be engaged in inditing a neat note of resignation.

In Colorado: Governors born of woman are of few days, though full of ballots.

The Washington, Alexandria and Mt. Vernon railroad is to be controlled by Philadelphians. There ought to be some lively times and fast trains there now.

A university professor predicts that in 2,500,000 years this world will be controlled by fish. The sharks are getting their hands in now, professor.

THE WORLD'S TRYST.
We fain would walk abroad with spring, impatient to begin it;
Like other fair ones sweet, who calls, "I'm ready in a minute!"

We fret, and fuss, and watch the clock, The minutes larger looming;
Spring dons a robe of tender green, A dash of faint perfume.

And when at last she comes to us
So fair do we behold her;
So radiant and beautiful,
We have no heart to scold her.

—Puck.

IN THE CIRCLE OF SOCIETY

MISS CANNON GOES TO HOT SPRINGS

She Is Accompanied by Her Sister, Mrs. LeSeure.

MR. AND MRS. LOOSE HERE

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Moore Now in Paris—Will Make Tour of Continent.

Miss Cannon, daughter and hostess for the Speaker of the House, left Washington yesterday for the Arkansas Hot Springs, where she will spend some time before going to her home in Illinois. Miss Cannon was accompanied by her sister, Mrs. LeSeure, who has been her guest for some weeks past.

Miss Lulu Fairbanks, niece of the Vice President, who came to Washington to attend the inauguration, returned to her home in Mansfield, Ill., yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Loose, of Chicago, have returned to Washington from New York, and will be at the New Willard for about ten days. Mrs. Loose was the guest of the Speaker and Miss Cannon at their home in Vermont avenue for the entire winter and became a great favorite here socially. After leaving Washington, Mr. and Mrs. Loose will take some trips in their auto touring car before returning to their home in Chicago.

Miss Alice Varnum, of New York, who is to be one of the bridesmaids at the Kellogg-Bradley wedding next Saturday, will arrive today to be Miss Kellogg's guest.

News comes that Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Moore—always closely identified with Washington's social life—will return to Paris, where they have a house on the Champs Elysees, after a month's hunt in Ireland, and will return to this country about July 1. Before coming to this country they will make a tour of the Continent in their automobile, a Mercedes, with a French chauffeur, taking the country at easy stages, and altogether independent of railways. They will spend the summer at Fride's Crossing with Mrs. Moore's parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Swift.

Robert E. Roosevelt, uncle of the President; Mrs. Thomas B. Reed, widow of the late Speaker of the House, and her daughter, Miss Katherine Reed, are among the notable guests at Old Point Comfort.

HUGH ORAM WEDS MISS EDNA ADAMS

Miss Edna S. Adams and Hugh P. Oram were married by the Rev. George Calvert Carter, of St. Andrew's Church, at the parsonage, 1529 K street northwest, on Saturday.

They left town after the ceremony for New York.

THREE RECEPTIONS ANNOUNCED

Mrs. Samuel Goldenberg, of O street, is entertaining Mrs. Samuel Dreyfuss, of Waynesboro, Pa., and the ladies will be at home on Thursdays in March.

Mrs. J. Walter Thompson, formerly Miss Marian Carter, will be at home Wednesday, March 22, from 3 to 5 in the afternoon, and from 7 to 9 in the evening, at 1317 Thirteenth street northwest.

The Legion of Loyal Women will entertain their friends at an "at home" at the Lyceum, a literary and musical program will be given.

SOCIETY PEOPLE WAIT ON AGED

The Little Sisters of the Poor, opened their home yesterday for the annual dinner in commemoration of the feast of St. Joseph, and a large number of society people attended and waited upon the aged inmates.

For many years it was the custom of the French ambassador to attend this dinner taking with him his full staff, but since the departure of M. Cambon, the former ambassador, this delightful feature of the affair has been omitted, and yesterday, Mme. des Portes, wife of the counselor of the French embassy, and her attractive daughter, and Viscountess de Faramond, wife of the naval attaché, represented the embassy. Mme. Walker-Martinez, wife of the Chilean minister, and her daughter, Senorita Walker-Martinez, were also attendants, making themselves useful in serving the old people.

The donations showed no decrease in quantity or quality, the menu for the 200 guests being soup, roast beef, or baked chicken, vegetables, fruit cake, and ice cream, with a special offering of tobacco for the old men and boxes of candy for the old women.

PROMINENT GERMAN MURDERED IN MEXICO

PUEBLO, Mexico, March 20.—The murder of Gustavus Stein, who for many years and until a short time before his death was German consul at this place, has caused a profound sensation throughout Mexico, particularly among the German residents of the republic. In addition to the great wealth which he possessed, Stein was looked upon as a leader in all matters affecting the interests of Germans and their country in Mexico.

It is the theory of some that Stein was lured to the Couture home for the purpose of putting him out of the way. The police are conducting a most rigid investigation upon this theory.

IN LUCK.

The typical Marblehead boy of ten or twelve years is much averse to attending school, preferring to loaf about the wharves or to earn a nickel on the golf links.

One day last summer a Boston man who occupies a cottage there, while playing golf, noticed that his caddy remained dangerously near the tee at each drive. After expostulating in vain he concluded to let the boy run the chance of getting hurt.

They had played some time, when the lad, growing friendly and more communicative suddenly said:

"Oh, yer'd ought ter see the luck Jim Finnegan hed yesterday!"

"What did he do?" questioned the golfer.

"Why," said the lad, gleefully, "he got hit in the hed with a golf ball, the man 'giv' him a wunt, a' bull, a' hor, a' ter go ter school for a whole week!"—Harper's Weekly.



MRS. JOHN WESLEY LANGLEY,
Who Spent Part of the Winter at the Riggs House With Her Parents and Assisted in Social Affairs.

MRS. M'KEE NOW GUEST OF MRS. LEE

Daughter of Late President Is Much Entertained.

FAREWELL TO AMBASSADOR

Society Preparing Another Charitable Entertainment on Large Scale. Gossip of the Day.

Among the visitors in Washington just now is Mrs. McKee, daughter of the late President Harrison, who is the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Lee.

Mrs. McKee is being much entertained and will be the guest at dinner Wednesday night of Mrs. H. Churchill Candee.

Ambassador Meyer was the guest at a large and brilliant dinner party in Rome last night. Seventy members of the aristocracy and court, and representatives of the Vatican attended, and bid the ambassador farewell. Among the guests were Prince Triggiano, Paterno, Aideri, Solofra, Russell and Terranova and former Foreign Minister Count Capoeili. The Duke of Semoneta proposed a toast to Mr. Meyer, declaring that his departure was a loss to the society of Rome. Mr. Meyer returned his thanks, and he should always preserve the kindest remembrances of his sojourn in Rome.

Mr. and Mrs. Owen B. French, of 2212 F street, will give a reception at their home this evening in celebration of their golden wedding.

Dr. and Mrs. James F. Mitchell will give a dinner party tomorrow night in honor of Miss Julia Kellogg and Andrew Y. Bradley, whose marriage will take place at the Church of the Covenant next Saturday at noon.

Thursday night Mrs. Tyler will give a large dinner party in honor of the same popular couple, and Friday evening Mrs. Bradley, the mother of the bridegroom, will entertain the entire bridal party at supper.

Society will have another opportunity of meeting on charitable ground next Friday afternoon, when Mrs. Boardman will throw open her house on Dupont circle from 3 to 6 o'clock for a sale of useful and ornamental articles in aid of the Noel House settlement, the afternoon sale to be followed by a concert at the home of Mrs. Herbert Wadsworth by the Polyphonia Society.

Separate tickets will be sold for each entertainment, although both are under the management of the same committee.

In addition to the ladies making up this body, Mrs. Boardman will be assisted by a number of young women well known in society.

FUNERAL SERVICES OF WOOLMAN GIBSON

Funeral services were held in memory of Woolman Gibson, who died of Bright's disease Saturday after an illness of about a year, at 4 o'clock this afternoon at Lee's undertaking establishment. The services were conducted by the Rev. Richard P. Williams, pastor of Trinity Church. Interment was in Congressional Cemetery.

Mr. Gibson was born on Kent Island, Md., seventy years ago, and came to this city in 1886. He was employed by the Washington Post until incapacitated by illness. For over a year he had been a sufferer from Bright's disease, and last Saturday grew much worse and passed away.

Mr. Gibson is survived by three sisters, two brothers, and two children.

UNPARDONABLE.
Mrs. Flip—That new neighbor is a fearfully sloshish housekeeper.
Mr. Flip—How do you know?
Mrs. Flip—Why, every single time I see her over there to borrow something she's always out of it—Detroit Free Press.

RELIGION IN THE SCHOOLS

Correspondent Thinks It Incompatible With True Freedom.

Public interest in the report of the citizens' committee to the conference of ministers, advocating religious teaching in the public schools, is growing.

The Times is in receipt of a large number of letters on the subject, some of which follow:

A CLERICAL CONSPIRACY.

To the Editor of The Washington Times:

The clerical conspiracy in this city to bind church and state more closely together by the introduction of religion into the public schools goes far to justify the contention that dogmatic Christianity is irreconcilable with religious liberty, and is a source of danger to the state. In this connection it is notable that few of the founders of the United States were doctrinal Christians. Franklin, Jefferson, and probably Washington, were deists of the eighteenth century school, as were also, doubtless, John Adams and James Madison. Ethan Allen, the hero of Ticonderoga, wrote the first deistical book published in America.

Thomas Paine, who first used the phrase "The United States of America," summed up his creed in these words: "I believe in one God and in one God only, and I hope for happiness beyond this life." This simple faith, unminged with ecclesiastical dogma, was the heart held by many of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, but they were far from seeking to impose it upon others by law. When Jefferson drew up the epitaph to be inscribed on his tomb he added to the phrase "author of the Declaration of Independence" the words "and of the statute of Virginia for religious freedom." The breadth of his views on the question of religious freedom are well indicated by the following extract from a letter written by him to James Carr, a young man who came to him for advice concerning religion:

"Fix reason firmly in her seat and call to her tribunal every fact, every opinion. Question with boldness even the existence of a God, because, if there be one, he must more approve the homage of reason than that of blindfolded fear."

God's terror and devil's terror are poor foundations for morals. They form the basis of the turgid systems whose viciousness appears only when the bugaboos are no longer believed in.

Edicts or morals have no necessary connection with theology, and the sooner the two are absolutely divorced the better. The great work of Herbert Spencer was avowedly to found a national system of ethics on a scientific basis, and we have already good manuals on scientific or secular ethics. Will these clergymen recommend the use of such manuals? Not they. They do not seek to teach ethics but theology. This very effort shows that they have themselves not had proper moral training; they have no respect for the rights of others.

Doctrinal Christianity has produced no higher moral types than John Stuart Mill, Thomas Henry Huxley, Charles Darwin, and John Tyndall. The notions of even our own heroic Robert Ingersoll.

Devotion to truth for truth's sake and the duty of thought—of thorough thinking—by which truth is gained, are not taught in any church, but these are cardinal ethical principles. These priests do not even understand the meaning and effect of the American ethical and political maxim, "Equal right in religion," and the reason they cannot understand it is the fact that they hold the very theological doctrines which they would instill into our children's minds under the guise of "theistic ethics."

G. M. DUBOIS.
Washington, March 18.

Denominational Fear Of General Morality

To the Editor of The Washington Times:
I cannot see the slightest reason in the arguments against religious instruction in the schools. It looks very much as if those churches and individuals who

oppose the action are afraid that if the broad principles of Jesus' teaching of love and human brotherhood are taught in the schools the children will learn to think for themselves on these important subjects, and would, perhaps, refuse to join any particular church, banded together to fight every other opposing sect.

Teaching Christianity in the schools is a grand and noble idea, and should by all means be carried out. There is no danger that the children learning too much of these all-important things.

M. B. C.

Teaching Necessarily By a Sectarian

To the Editor of The Washington Times:

Your publication of views of persons on the subject of teaching the Bible in public schools is very interesting, but does not cover the whole field. For instance, there are very many educated people who think all church mental training is erroneous in that it is ideal and imaginary, and does not fit the child the youth, or the man for our everyday real life, which is earnest and practical. Hence, if faulty church teaching, should not be taught in the public schools where pupils are supposed to be educated to use the actual conditions and necessities of real life.

If you will notice in nearly every religious conference held for the last twenty years the question has been seriously discussed of dropping all the supernatural and substituting more practical methods suitable to the age and progress and wants of the country. If the child is trained from infancy to drink, to eat right (which includes training to breathe right), to be a credit to himself, to his family and the community, he lives—all of which

to be desired.
If the Bible is taught in public schools, whom is it to be taught by? A Methodist, a Baptist, a Presbyterian or some other sect? Then it becomes a matter of theology instead of religion, because each teacher will instruct according to his mental training and his mind has been warped to believe his school the correct one. Hence chaos and confusion will occur.

Teach the children to be healthy, happy, and useful, and the man will take care of himself and our free country.

Respectfully,

EDWARD PEARCE,
471 Sixth street northwest.
Washington, D. C., March 18, 1905.

Few Children Get Religious Training

To the Editor of The Washington Times:
I want to endorse the plan suggested by the Rev. Dr. McKim for the teaching of the "principle of righteousness" in our public schools.

Very few parents give their children religious training. The mother, as a rule, is like the biblical Martha—troubled about many things. The father is usually an advanced "hotter" in precept and example.

The children consequently grow up ungovernable and gainsaying, for the reason that they haven't a conception of their real existence—such as is proper to God and to His word—and that form of "knowledge" that includes the "law of biogenesis," and the immense further truth of a correspondence that reveals the soul as a living organism. "Education" is only "education" so far as it "emancipates." M. H. LOUNT,
National Press Association.

Book-Taught Binkins

MASTERS A GUIDE-BOOK

